

North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

Day 1 June 16, 2020

Attending: Doug Boggan, Cindy Hake, Eric Pardue, Craig Spencer, Tom Lamar, Todd Brown, Beth Erdey, Win Green, Chris Goetz, Jarrod Crow, Bill Warren and Skip Brandt.

The first order of business was to elect a chairperson. The group unanimously voted for Todd Brown to serve as chairperson.

Next, presentations were given for each project. Questions about the project are listed below the project title.

- **Seven Devils Road Bridge Repair, Gene Meinen**
 - No questions
- **Salmon River Crushing & Placement, Gene Meinen**
 - No questions
- **South Fork Clearwater River Sediment Monitoring, Nate Millett**
 - No questions
- **Kirkwood Footbridge, Cathy Conover**
 - No questions
- **LiDAR Digital Elevation Model (DEM) – Joel Harrison presenting**
 - Q: was 2016 the most up to date info you have in the database?
 - A: Yes, and we need to add to that dataset.
 - Q: This appears to be a more modern way of using aerial photographs, is that correct?
 - A: Yes, because we don't have the capacity to validate the data.
 - Q: Will this be entered into the corporate database?
 - A: Yes
 - Q: If you didn't receive RAC funding, what happens to this project?
 - A: There is a possibility we can find some GNA funding, but it would be piecemeal, and we could only do the areas where we have GNA projects.
 - Q: Who actually does this work?
 - A: We have a national geospatial task order in place to do this.
 - Q: Is that a private company?
 - A: Yes
- **Hells Canyon Recreation Collaborative, Christine Frei and Kelli Rosselini presenting**
 - Q: So you are paying 1 individual and the rest are volunteers?
 - A: Yes, that is correct.
 - Q: If you didn't receive RAC funding, what happens to this project?
 - A: This is new to us to act as the agent for the Hells Canyon Collaborative. I think they are very dependent on this grant money. They have anxiously been waiting for RAC funding so they can expand their program. It is the difference between recruiting 15-16 volunteers to 50-60 volunteers.

- Q: A contract grant cost and salary are both \$20,000, are those one in the same?
 - A: Yes it is
- Q: Where does the other money come from, the \$14,000?
 - A: The matching funds are an in-kind match from our group, as well as from the volunteers.
- Q: Did you list the trails you were going to do?
 - A: We identify the trails at an annual meeting with the Forest Service.
- Q: The application is for 1 year, what are the plans for continuing the coordinator beyond one year?
 - A: We would come back to the RAC after that year to request more funding. We have been looking for alternative funding.
- **Nez Perce Tribe Invasive Inventory and Treatment – Shawn Kaschmitter presenting**
 - Q: What happens if we are unable to fund your program in its entirety?
 - A: This is my sole source of funding for this project.
 - Q: You indicate you will treat 300 acres in this program, how many feet off of a trail will you treat?
 - A: It is about 10 feet on each side of the trail.
 - Q: Is there a specific chemical that you use?
 - A: If you are talking about the orange hawkweed, we operate off of a specific BO that the forest uses and it identifies a specific chemical that we can use.
 - Q: How many years would the funding you requested get you?
 - A: That was a 2 year request.
- **The 100 Road culvert replacement – Justin Peterson presenting**
 - Q: When you put the stream back into its historic channel, where it crosses the 100 road, are there any culverts there?
 - A: There is, and it will stay there to act as an overflow.
 - Q: Does the amount that you are requesting include the \$85,000 that you are getting from somewhere else?
 - A: No
 - Q: If you were given less than the whole amount requested, what would you do?
 - A: Mike White culvert wouldn't get done. If we got all of it, we could do both. The Forest Service has received some money for another culvert which we hope to do before the repaving project.
 - Q: Why would a stream be diverted?
 - A: Immediately across the road there is the Collette mine. There is a bunch of cobble, so when they first started mining, they diverted it and then never went back.
- **Central Idaho Trail Maintenance – Bobby Grillo presenting**
 - C: This seems like critical work and Tom is glad you are proposing
 - Q: You are showing the cost is \$1700 per mile?
 - A: No one has been on these trails for a while and we get a mile down the road and there are 700 trees down. It all depends on the ground and what is there. It is hard to know what is going to be on the ground.
 - Q: Do the young folks get paid a minimal amount?

- A: Yes, they work for a stipend, between \$600-\$700 per 2 week shifts and they get an education award at the end. They can also defer on their loan payments while they are in the Americorp program.
- **Forest Service Road 100 Road Pavement Design, Susan Graves**
 - Q: Are there any timber sale funds available for this project?
 - A: No, the funds are for implementation only and this is design.
 - Q: Is this the same road that we are looking at for the culvert replacement?
 - A: Yes
 - Q: Does one have to happen before the other?
 - A: Yes, but she is hoping that her design will lead to a paving project.
 - Q: What is the timeline for this project?
 - A: Hoping to get the design done in 2021 and paving in 2022.
- **North Fork Trail and Backcountry Crew, Hayley Newman**
 - Q: Who is exactly doing the work?
 - A: They hire crew members and they work with the Forest Service trail crew members.
- **Selway Roads Dust Abatement, Susan Graves presenting**
 - Q: Are you saying you would have better pictures of the road if it wasn't so dusty?
 - A: Yes!
 - Q: Are there other sources of funding available?
 - A: She can apply for retained receipts funding for this work.
 - Q: Your cost per mile is 17.3 for 130, Deer Creek is doing more for less.
 - A: She wonders if it is because she has to go out with a public works contract and they are doing the work themselves.
 - Q: If the RAC couldn't fund the whole amount, would a portion of the work get done?
 - A: Yes, she could do the main portion of the road.
- **Bungalow Loop Dust Abatement, Susan Graves presenting**
 - This project was withdrawn from funding as the funding was found elsewhere.
- **Hells Canyon Wilderness Trails Proposal, Cathy Conover**
 - Q: Does this project need 12% overhead with MCC?
 - A: Yes it does. They have partnered many years with MCC.
 - Q: Do you think that 2 10 day stints will clear 65 miles of trail?
 - A: Yes, they have gotten pretty high quality crews with MCC and with their knowledge of the trails, they feel like they can get it accomplished.
 - Q: When you use the Montana Conservation Corps, where do they buy their supplies?
 - A: This proposal is for maintenance, so I'm not sure what the question is.
 - Q: How will it benefit our local businesses?
 - A: They shop in both Missoula and Riggins and they recruit in North Central Idaho. They are the North Central Idaho arm of the Montana Conservation Corps.
 - Q: Who will show them where the trails actually are?
 - A: In a typical project, Cathy will go out and provide the trails expertise and make sure the work is done to the Forest Service specifications.

- **Kirkwood Pack Bridge, Swen**
 - Q: If both of the projects were to be funded, would there be any cost savings?
 - A: They need to be done sequentially because we don't want more than one bridge out at a time, so the answer is no.
 - Q: Is the design for this higher to keep the bridge out of the high flow?
 - A: On the previous bridge the deck would not go underwater, so this bridge will be higher.
- **Deer Creek Road Dust Abatement – Julie Fowler**
 - Q: What other funding sources would you have if the RAC doesn't fund this project?
 - A: Probably nothing since we are getting ready to apply it within the next month or two.
- **Deer Creek Road Chip Seal Project – Julie Fowler presenting**
 - Q: Where are you wanting to do this chip seal project?
 - A: The 1st 2 miles of the road to Pittsburgh Landing.
 - Q: Is there any money available from the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries program for this?
 - A: They have never asked them for money for this.
- **Idaho Project Learning Tree – Michelle Youngquist presenting**
 - C: Really liked the presentation, printed material is beautiful!
 - Q: Is Project Learning Tree offered to private schools as well?
 - A: It is open to anyone, public, private, home schools, boy scouts.
 - C: Thank you for reaching out to the next generation.
- **Forest Tours for Educators and Opinion Leaders – Michelle Okerlund**
 - Q: In your tours, how actively involved is Idaho Fish & Game?
 - A: They try to involve all of the state management and regulatory agencies and they show up when they are able.
- **High Mountain Lake Monitoring and Adaptive Management – Derek Bawdon**
 - Q: What are some changes in adaptive management have you implemented from this study?
 - A: We really need to finish the study so that we can figure out what the long term trends are.
 - Q: Your project is looking for the stocking level of amphibians, but your project doesn't mention that, so is one of them mislabeled?
 - A: I mentioned amphibians at the beginning of the project documentation.
 - Q: What happens next year as far as funding?
 - A: I assume we will run into the same situation for the next 4 years unless alternative funding is found.
- **Musselshell Road Inventory & Preliminary Design, Anne Connor**
 - Q: Does the grant not cover the design cost estimates?
 - A: The FLAP grant pays for the final design. This is just to get a good cost estimate.
- **Partridge Creek Culvert Designs, Anne Connor**
 - Q: Why can't fish pass thru these culverts? It looks like they could.
 - A: At high flows they are completely impassable because of velocities. They are also collapsing.

- Q: If the RAC committee were unable to fund this, do you have any other access to funds?
 - A: Yes for implementation. I think it is possible to do design build under stewardship, but not sure. This would definitely give us a leg up.
- Q: How many miles of habitat would open up if these were replaced?
 - A: 3.2 miles to the first culvert, maybe another mile above the first culvert.
- Kirkwood Footbridge, new cost is \$17,000
- Kirkwood Pack Bridge new cost is \$30,000
- **Road 221 Design, Susan Graves**
 - Q: Is this just the design, not the implementation?
 - A: Yes, I think this is going to be a very expensive project.
 - Q: When you said this was scalable, you could either use the hot mix or the milling and overlay?
 - A: The road closest to Grangeville is a hot mix section, the next section was a double chip seal and the last section hasn't been paved yet.
 - Q: \$160,000 just for the civil engineer? Who is that? Do you bid that? Where did this number come from, it is a big number.
 - A: It would be out for bid. We have geotechnical firms that we could go to. There are several firms that we could use. The amount was a design estimate that I received from one of my engineers.
 - C: So if it went out for bid, it could be less.
 - Q: Since this is the only access between Riggins and Grangeville if Hwy 95 were to close, would there be any money there?
 - A: Not sure, may need to check with Skip. Would be a perfect focus for the Federal Highways Division. It is a project they would love.
 - Q: If you were thinking about using Federal Highways money for this project, do they want you to come to them with the design?
 - A: Sometimes they do their own design, but they do want a solid estimate. It might be better for them to do the design because things change over time.
- **Road Corridor and Interface Area Invasive Plant Management, Connie Jensen Blyth**
 - Q: Asking for \$127,000, not \$160,000?
 - A: I could get some clarification. I wasn't able to get any support from the forest before this was due because of Covid. I would like to bump it up to the \$160,000.
 - Q: Clarification, are you only asking for \$127,000 of RAC funds?
 - A: Yes
 - Q: You're asking for \$127,000 for a 5 year project?
 - A: Yes, that is correct.
 - Q: If we provided partial funding, would you come back the next year for additional funding?
 - A: Yes.
 - Q: Who will be doing the work on this project?
 - A: It would be contracted out.
 - Q: If you were to divide the \$127,000 into 5 years, would it be divided equally?

- A: What we prefer to do is utilize the funds as we can each year, as there is so much variability from year to year.
- **Kirkwood Historic Jordan House Roofing Project, Michael Ball**
 - Q: Has the Idaho SHPO seen this project?
 - A: We are in the middle of that right now and would have approval in place before proceeding.
- **The Historical Routes, Electronic Tour Sites and Maintenance, Chrysann Jaeger**
 - Q: This funding just gets this project done?
 - A: Yes, we got it started in house with Regional funding. We want to make sure we get all 30 of our sites installed.
 - Q: What about the harsh conditions and how it works when snow piles up on the solar power and they can't charge, or fires, etc?
 - A: We just got the ones on the motorway installed at the end of September and haven't been able to check up on those yet. There is one in Montana that has held up to the weather. I'm not too concerned about that, we have them at an angle that allows the snow to slide off of it. I haven't had the opportunity to go up on a snowmobile and check the charge level of the sites.
 - Q: We have internet all the way thru the Magruder Corridor?
 - A: Not quite, it is very site specific. The maximum area that you can pick up signal in about 3000 square feet. This isn't really internet where you can look up things on the internet, it is just linked to the website of the site.
- **Lolo Motorway Recreational Access Maintenance, Carol Hennessey**
 - Q: Any other funds available for doing this work in this fiscal year?
 - A: No, we are finishing the reconditioning with the money that we've been given from the Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation. Retained receipts money has gone to other projects.
 - Q: Where on the Elk City Wagon Road are you coming in, from Clearwater, is that part of it?
 - A: Yes, it is.
 - Q: Where you actually start the wagon road, are you talking about that section where it goes through private property?
 - A: We would start at the North end of the road, and go 17 miles into Newsome townsite. There is more work to do on that road, but we thought that portion was a little higher priority.
 - C: I would just like to commend Carol and the forest on this work. A lot of the roads are listed on the forest map as high clearance when they aren't in that good of a condition.
 - Q: I was thinking the Magruder Corridor was one of our escape routes from this part of the Northwest?
 - A: What do you mean by escape routes, it is a through road from Idaho to Montana.
- **Nez Perce Clearwater Natural Resource Education Program – Courtney Johnson**
 - Q: If we didn't fund the entire request, would you come back in later years and ask for the balance?
 - A: Yes

- C: I think it's a great idea to get the kids out into the forest.
- Q: When you are trying to decide between the MOSS project and this, this project looks like it has a lot of bus time, what is the value in being in a bus for so long?
 - A: I have tried to plan the field trips so they are within 45 minutes of the school location.
- Q: What schools will you be working with?
 - A: Pretty much all of them.
- Q: When you are talking about how far the bus trip would be, it sounds like you are talking about the South Fork.
- A: It depends on where the school is, the trips haven't always been on Forest Service lands.

SCAT Machine recreation fees, Jeremy Harris

- Want to charge a fee for using the new SCAT machine in Riggins.
- This is to try and keep the public from coming by and pressing the button and to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on the \$80,000 project.
- The RAC committee has the ability to vote or recommend fee increases to recreation sites.
- Jeremy will come back to the RAC at a later time and make a recommendation as to what the Forest Service would like to charge for this service.
- The daily user fees collected from river users was used to fund this project initially. The use fees for the SCAT machine would be to keep the machine up and running.
- The money collected will go into a special fund, the FDDS fund which is very site specific and the money will be retained on the forest to take care of the SCAT machine.
- Jeremy would like to recommend a fee of \$2 per cycle. This matches what the BLM charges for their machine out of Asotin, WA.
- How do you plan to replace the machine once it is worn out? Jeremy is hoping that we will get 25 years out of this machine.
- The Forest Service would like the RAC to tentatively approve the \$2 fee. Then the Forest Service will come back once they receive the public comment and ask for a final approval of the fee.
- The RAC would like to wait until they hear from the public. No one was opposed to a tentative approval of the \$2 fee.
- Carol and Jeremy wanted to get a feel from the RAC as to their thoughts on charging this fee before they went to the public with this.

Public Forum

Idaho County has authority to spend Title III funds and they are supposed to let us know how they plan to spend the funds. They sent a message last week as to how they plan to spend the funds. The Title III funds are to carry out activities under the Firewise communities program, so they are used for different things than the Title II funds.

Day 2

June 17th, 2020

Attending: Doug Boggan, Cindy Hake, Eric Pardue, Mike Reggear, Craig Spencer, Tom Lamar, Todd Brown, Beth Erdey, Win Green, Chris Goetz, Jarrod Crow, Bill Warren and Skip Brandt. Mike Hanna and Tony Snodderly also attended virtually.

Presentations for each project continued. Questions about the project are listed below the project title.

- **Deferred Maintenance on Nat'l Historic Trails & Black Lake Trail, Dan Schillo**

- Q: Should you not receive 100% of the funding request, how will that impact your work for the crews this summer?
 - A: If we don't receive the full amount, we will work with our forest partner to maximize the amount of work that we can accomplish with whatever resources are available to us.
- Q: Are your projects scalable so that you could set priorities between the two?
 - A: Yes, they are absolutely scalable.
- Q: You said this was a 2 year project, although your estimate of project completion is 2021, so I assumed it was a 1 year project.
 - A: We estimated that completion was in 2021, but if multi year funds are available we would like to request multi year funds.
- Q: In looking at your figures, it looked like it was \$404 per day per person, is that correct?
 - A: I would have to look, but that seems to be correct. The \$11,000 works out to be 2 crews.
- Q: Have you already hired the people for this summer?
 - A: Yes, we currently have crews in the field. This money would be for crews next fall and next spring.
- Q: On your analysis worksheet, what is the \$28,000 for the indirect costs?
 - A: Our indirect costs take into account our fleet, our tools, as well as other administrative costs.

- **CBYCC Crew Funding, Angie Edwards Kuskie**

- Q: Several of these projects are asking for money for crews to work this summer and I'm not sure how they are going to be able to pull this off. I would think this money would be requested for the following year.
 - A: The money that we are requesting is for the 2021-22 year. The money for the crews is in place for this year.
- Q: I noticed that the youth is \$23,200 and other salaries are \$49,750. Where does that come from?
 - A: The youth amount is for 10 youth. Regarding the \$49,000, I'm not seeing that. The \$49,000 is the contributions that they are receiving from local cooperators. There is a big education component with these crews and they do other activities as well.
- Q: If we were only able to provide half of the funding and could you come back next year and ask for more?

- A: Yes, we could. It is a bit of a challenge to fund a crew for only one year, but if that is what we would have to do, we would.
- **CBYCC Vehicle Funding, Angie Edwards Kuskie**
 - Q: When the project states that they are leased, how does that work?
 - A: We will be leasing through Joe Hall Ford in Lewiston. We also reached out to Gortsema Motors in Grangeville, but they don't offer this service.
- **Riparian Restoration & Trail Work, Heather Bell**
 - Q: You have almost \$9,000 for Forest Service indirect costs. Is that still valid?
 - A: No, it is no longer valid.
 - C: This wasn't initially specific on where they were going to go, but this presentation really explained that.
- **Riparian Restoration, Nick Davids**
 - Q: BDA is what?
 - A: Beaver Dam Analog is an instream structure that has been utilized for 15 years. It provides a quick start to a beaver dam.
 - Q: You are going to use a 3 person crew for one month, is that correct?
 - A: Yes, that is correct. We are also expecting help from the Nez Perce Tribe watershed division.
 - Q: You've got \$20,000 for a 3 person crew for one month, what does that pay for?
 - A: It pays for salaries and it includes the time for implementing and getting materials ready. It is probably more like 5 weeks rather than 3 weeks.
- **Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation Volunteer Stewardship Program, Sally Ferguson**
 - Q: You have a dollar match almost 1 for 1, but on your cost analysis worksheet, it doesn't look like a dollar for dollar match.
 - A: On the bottom of column C, \$168,000 is our cash back. We raise that from our Idaho License plate funds, private foundations, donors and members as well as a number of fund raisers.
 - Q: It looks like you are looking about a \$1,000 per mile, is that right?
 - A: It's hard for us to pencil it out by mile. The damage to trails varies depending on the year. We pay our employees approximately what they would make working for the Forest Service.
- **Lolo Pass NPCLW Entrance Sign and Nez Perce Sculpture, Kearstin Edwards**
 - Q: Were you going to ask the Lolo to contribute?
 - A: No, it is on the Idaho side and the sign has already been purchased.
 - Q: So you are just going to contract it to have it placed?
 - A: Yes, because the statue is quite heavy, we need to have some supports for it.
 - Q: You have both the sculpture and the sign already purchased, but why is it so much more expensive to place it than to buy it?
 - A: We are looking at a very substantial base for both of the items.
 - Q: Could you clarify the amount that you are requesting from the RAC?
 - A: These 2 projects combined will be \$14,000.
 - Q: If I add \$3500 and \$9500, I get \$13,000?
 - A: You are correct, Diana is going to look at the final request. The additional \$1,000 is for the mobilization costs.

- **Tukaytespe' Picnic Area Toilet & Weir Creek Toilet Repair, Kearstin Edwards**
 - Q: Will there be anything to keep people from backing into the toilet in the future?
 - A: We are working with the Idaho Transportation department to install barriers.
 - Q: Is there additional NHPA clearance required?
 - A: Yes and that package has gone in for review.
- **Nez Perce Clearwater Aspen Restoration, Brandi Felts**
 - Q: Have you looked at LiDAR technology rather than aircraft? Your methodology seems outdated.
 - A: We are completely open to various methodologies. However with the available data, we feel like this is a good way to tackle finding the data that we are looking for. We were trying to identify aspen stands based on these way points based on ArcGIS data points.
 - C: IFG is using different datasets to identify specific species in North Central Idaho.
 - Q: Cattle consider the aspen leaves to be like candy. What is it about the aspen leaves that makes them so attractive to game and cattle?
 - A: It is highly nutritious. It's well known that aspen is good forage for domestic and wild animals.
- **Bear Awareness & Infrastructure Conservation Measures, Mike Pruss**
 - Q: If you were to receive partial funding which part of your proposal would be more important?
 - A: The education and infrastructure could be looked at separately and even within the infrastructure, it could be scaled. I think that the education component is the most important part.
- **Grangeville Elementary & Middle School MOSS fund, Adam Uptmor**
 - Q: If you were not to receive funding, would the Grangeville school lose their time slot?
 - A: Yes, that is true. We almost lost our spot this last year because we were trying to fund raise.
 - Q: On your sheet it says \$35,000, but on a different sheet it asks for \$30,000?
 - A: We have a lot larger class size coming in, so we are asking for \$35,000 and it is for 2 years.
 - Q: With the recent reauthorization of SRS, does the county fund this?
 - A: The county has had to prioritize their funding and they made the decision to use the money for road and bridges instead.
- **IDYCA Service to the Community Initiative, Ken Pratt**
 - C: Sounds like a really great program at a reasonable cost.
 - C: The return on investment is a no brainer.
- **Western White Pine Pruning, Beth Wood**
 - Beth wasn't able to present.
 - Q: There was no number in the total cost estimate, so the \$64,152 goes down to the bottom line?
 - A: Yes
 - Q: Is that 1 or 2 fiscal years?
 - A: Not sure, Lisa will clarify.

- Q: It looks like there are 3 different spots where they are pruning, if they received reduced funding, could they prioritize the spots?
 - A: Yes
- Q: Could someone explain what does pruning mean?
 - A: It is going thru and pruning the bottom 8' of limbs off of the Western White Pine trees. This removes the surface area on the leaves reducing the chances of infection.
- Q: Is this project scalable?
 - A: Yes, there are 3 areas in there, not sure how much to apply to each area.
- Q: Years ago, they dug up goose berries to combat blister rust. Do they still do that?
 - A: No, we have nurseries now that grow blister resistant stock.

After presentations were made, the RAC broke out into their individual categories to come up with a consensus as to which projects their category would like to recommend along with amounts. They then submitted their project rankings by category along with the amount they would like to fund. This information was put into a spreadsheet and the project ranking and dollar amount funded were averaged. After this, the whole group met and compromised on dollar amounts to fund for each project.